

09/083198

ABSTRACT

This invention provides methods whereby taxol, baccatin III, and other taxol-like compounds, or taxanes, can be produced in very high yield from all known *Taxus* species, e.g., *brevifolia*, *canadensis*, *cuspidata*, *baccata*, *globosa*, *floridana*, *wallichiana*, *media* and *chinensis*. Particular modifications of culture conditions (i.e., media composition and operating modes) have been discovered to enhance the yield of various taxanes from cell culture of all species of *Taxus*. Particularly preferred enhancement agents include silver ion or complex, jasmonic acid (especially the methyl ester), auxin-related growth regulators, and inhibitors of the phenylpropanoid pathway, such as 3,4-methylenedioxy-6-nitrocinnamic acid. These enhancement agents may be used alone or in combination with one another or other yield-enhancing conditions. While the yield of taxanes from plant cell culture of *T. chinensis* is particularly enhanced by use of one or more of these conditions, yield of taxanes for all *Taxus* species has been found to benefit from use of these conditions.